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Rev. R. SHEEPSHANKS, Vice-President, in the Chair.

E. F. T. Fergusson, Esq., Indian Navy;
Isaac Brown, Esq., Ackworth, near Wakefield; and
William Simms, junior, Esq., 138 Fleet Street,
were balloted for and duly elected Fellows of the Society.

Astronomische Nachrichten.

The Fellows of the Royal Astronomical Society will be gratified to learn that the publication of the *Astronomische Nachrichten* is continued under the care of Professor Hansen and Dr. Petersen. The loss of the lamented Professor Schumacher could not be more satisfactorily supplied than by the new editors; and we may, perhaps, be allowed to urge it as a duty on all lovers of the science, liberally to support the undertaking by communications and otherwise.

Newly discovered Inner Dark Ring of Saturn.

The editor of the *Monthly Notices* calls attention to the following important errors at pp. 23 and 24 of the number for last December.

At page 23, 3 lines from the bottom, should be inserted, ["Here follows a diagram illustrating the appearances."] This passage was omitted by the compositor, as the signs [ ] are the usual mode of directing the printer to leave out the matter inclosed; and *as the diagram was not appended*, the editor overlooked the omission.

The unfortunate absence of this sketch caused the editor to misunderstand the true import of that part of Mr. Dawes' journal which refers to the appearance of *Saturn* on Nov. 29. With the sketch, which is nearly identical with the right-hand half of the wood-engraving, it would have been self-evident from the journal that Mr. Dawes saw on Nov. 29, and even on Nov. 25, pretty much the same phenomena as were visible to him and to Mr. Lassell at later dates. The note p. 18 is incorrect in not calling attention to this fact.

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Again, at p. 24, line 9, after Mr. Lassell's description that the space between the inner ring and the ball appeared as if a crape veil had been thrown over half of it, the next sentence in the *proof* and *manuscript* was as follows:—"From *c* to *d* a little shaded off, and from *d* to the commencement of *b* was of uniform grey colour, whilst *b* was as black as any part of the sky, or as the shadow of the ball on the following side of the ring." As there were no letters to the woodcut, the editor added the following foot-note to the *proof*:

"*c* is the dark inner edge of the bright ring, which shades off a little to *d*; the dark ring is then of a uniform grey colour: *b* is the sky seen between Bond's ring and the planet."

Unluckily the printer mistook the direction, and *replaced* Mr. Lassell's *text* by the editor's *note*. In the *revise* the latter passage was directed to be made a note, *but the loss of Mr. Lassell's original passage was not perceived.* Finally, in the last and very hurried revision, an hour before going to press, when the original manuscript was not at hand, it was perceived that the note had nothing to refer to, and the text was formed as it stands at present, omitting, what ought to have been stated, that the words used were the editor's explanation by means of the woodcut, of what he understood by Mr. Lassell's description. The *lost* passage and *note* should be inserted instead of the words, "There is a dark inner edge . . . . between Bond's ring and the planet."

Extract from a Letter received from Mr. Dawes.

"I regret to find that, in some quarters, the extent of my claim to the *independent discovery* of a new appendage to *Saturn's* ring, founded on my observations of Nov. 29, 1850, does not appear to be correctly appreciated;* and it has been urged upon me to state in a connected form what I considered to have been established by the observations of that evening.

"It must be acknowledged that rough original entries, made in the utmost haste under the fear of losing the precious starlight, and of disordering the optic nerve by long or frequent exposure to the light of the lamp, do not always fully express what the observer intended to convey; and sometimes it is not easy to do so, even by the utmost care in the description, without an illustrative picture. I was aware that my original records on the evening in question required such assistance, especially as the phenomena were at first made out and recorded *separately*. I therefore drew a large coarse diagram in my journal in immediate connexion with the entries;

* In giving an account of what he saw at Wateringbury in company with Mr. Dawes, Mr. Lassell confined himself to describing his own impressions, well knowing that Mr. Dawes would himself communicate his series of observations, which were, therefore, not alluded to. The mistake of the Editor, which has probably misled other persons, arose from the simple circumstance that Mr. Lassell sent a drawing of what he saw on Dec. 3d, and was therefore understood, and that Mr. Dawes relying on the verbal description of what he saw on Nov. 29, was not clearly understood in consequence of omitting his sketch.

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